

FORM **IPEDS-GRS-3**  
(12-10-96)**NOTE** – The completion of this survey is voluntary and authorized by P.L. 103-382, National Education Statistics Act of 1994, Sec. 404(a).U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
ACTING AS COLLECTING AGENT FOR THE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS**INTEGRATED POSTSECONDARY  
EDUCATION DATA SYSTEM****GRADUATION RATE SURVEY  
(PRETEST)**

(Please correct any errors in name, address, and ZIP code.)

**Please read** the accompanying instructions before completing this survey form. Report data **ONLY** for the institution in the address label. If data for any other institutions or branch campuses are included in this report because they **CANNOT** be reported separately, please provide a list of these schools.**RETURN TO****U.S. Department of Commerce  
Bureau of the Census  
Governments Division -- IPEDS/GRS  
Washington, DC 20233-6800****If there are any questions about this form,** contact a Bureau of the Census IPEDS representative at (800) 451-6235**Date Due: February 14, 1997****1.** Name of respondent**2.** Title of respondent**3.** E-mail address**4.** Telephone (Area code, number, extension.)**5.** Fax Number (Area code, number)**DATA AVAILABILITY**This report requests data for the **1994 cohort year**. Can you report data for this period?☐ Yes – Please complete the remainder of this form using the 1994 cohort year.☐ No – Please indicate the first cohort year for which **any** data are available. →

Year

Complete as much of the form as possible using the cohort year indicated. Be sure to change the cohort year date at the top of the form.

If you are unable to report for any cohort year, please indicate when you will first establish a cohort →

Year

and return this form.

**COHORT IDENTIFICATION**

Which method will your institution use to identify a cohort for reporting data on this survey? (See "Cohort Identification" on page 1 of the instructions.)

☐ Fall Cohort☐ Full-Year Cohort: Beginning July 1, 1994 and ending June 30, 1995

Signature

Date

## PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY

The Graduation Rate Survey (GRS), component of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, collects data on completion or graduation rates and transfer rates of full-time, first-time certificate or degree-seeking undergraduate students. This survey will provide a new indicator in the National Center for Education Statistics' (NCES) ongoing effort to report on the condition of postsecondary education in the United States.

These data will also help institutions satisfy the requirements of the Student Right-to-Know legislation. According to the Student Assistance General Provisions (Sec. 668.41, 668.46, 668.49), institutions that offer athletically-related student aid are required to report graduation and transfer-out rates to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Education. In addition, other institutions that participate in any student financial assistance program under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, are required to disclose graduation rates to students and prospective students.

This survey is being conducted in compliance with the Center's mission "to collect, analyze, and disseminate statistics and other information related to education in the United States..." (P.L. 103-382, National Education Statistics Act of 1994, Sec. 404(a)).

## USES OF THE DATA

These data will provide comparable graduation rate statistics for all postsecondary institutions in the nation. The data will also provide much needed information to researchers as an outcome measure of institutional productivity and it will offer insight into the relationship between the changing demographics of college-going cohorts within different types of institutions. The information collected in this form can also be used by institutions to partially satisfy the final regulations regarding the Student Right-to-Know Act.

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According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number of this information collection is 1850-0735. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20.0 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. **If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate or suggestions for improving this form, please write to:** U.S. Department of Education, Information Management Team, Washington, DC 20202-4652. **If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form write directly to:**

**National Center for Education Statistics/IPEDS  
555 New Jersey Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20208-5652**

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The definitions and instructions for compiling GRS data have been designed to minimize comparability problems. However, postsecondary education institutions differ widely among themselves. As a result of these differences, comparisons of data provided by individual institutions may be misleading.

***DO NOT RETURN INSTRUCTIONS***

*Note: If the institution or administrative unit named on this report is including Graduation Rate Survey data for other institutions or branches in this report, list the following information for the additional institutions or branches.*

[illegible]

Notes (Reference part, line, and column)

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### **SECTION III**

#### **1994 COHORT OF FULL-TIME, FIRST-TIME DEGREE/CERTIFICATE-SEEKING STUDENTS**

*(NOTE: SECTIONS I AND II ARE NOT APPLICABLE TO THIS REPORT)*

Section III – 1994 COHORT OF FULL-TIME, FIRST-TIME DEGREE/CERTIFICATE-SEEKING STUDENTS																	
Part A – FULL-TIME, FIRST-TIME DEGREE/CERTIFICATE-SEEKING STUDENTS																	
Line No.	Cohort year: 1994	Nonresident alien		Black, non-Hispanic		American Indian or Alaskan Native		Asian or Pacific Islander		Hispanic		White, non-Hispanic		Race/ethnicity unknown		TOTAL ALL STUDENTS	
		Men (1)	Women (2)	Men (3)	Women (4)	Men (5)	Women (6)	Men (7)	Women (8)	Men (9)	Women (10)	Men (11)	Women (12)	Men (13)	Women (14)	Men (15)	Women (16)
10	Initial cohort of full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking students																
For lines 11-23 report the status of the students reported on line 10 above as of June 30, 1996.																	
11	Completers of programs of less than 2-years duration, total																
11A	Completed the program within 150% of normal time																
22	Students still enrolled (with no record of transfer out)																
23	Other students not graduated and not enrolled (includes transfer-out students)																
<b>Edit Check:</b> Be sure line 10 = lines 11 + 22 + 23.																	
Comments: <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 300px; margin-top: 10px;"></div>																	

**Section III – 1994 COHORT OF FULL-TIME, FIRST-TIME DEGREE/CERTIFICATE-SEEKING STUDENTS**
**Part B – STUDENTS LEAVING THE INSTITUTION PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF THEIR PROGRAM (Status as of June 30, 1996)**
**1. Does your institution receive any data about transfer-out students through a verification process as described in the instructions?**

- ☐ Yes – Only provide information for verified transfer-out students below
- ☐ No – SKIP to Item 2

Line No.	Cohort year: 1994	Nonresident alien		Black, non-Hispanic		American Indian or Alaskan Native		Asian or Pacific Islander		Hispanic		White, non-Hispanic		Race/ethnicity unknown		TOTAL ALL STUDENTS	
		Men (1)	Women (2)	Men (3)	Women (4)	Men (5)	Women (6)	Men (7)	Women (8)	Men (9)	Women (10)	Men (11)	Women (12)	Men (13)	Women (14)	Men (15)	Women (16)
<b>30</b>	<b>Transfer-out students (within 150% of normal time), total</b>																
<b>31</b>	To a less than 2-year institution																
<b>32</b>	To a 2-year institution																
<b>33</b>	To a 4-year or higher institution																

**Edit Check:** Be sure line 30 = lines 31 + 32 + 33

**2. Does your institution maintain any data about students leaving for jobs in their field prior to completion of their program?**

- ☐ Yes – Provide information below
- ☐ No – SKIP to Part C

Line No.	Cohort year: 1994	Nonresident alien		Black, non-Hispanic		American Indian or Alaskan Native		Asian or Pacific Islander		Hispanic		White, non-Hispanic		Race/ethnicity unknown		TOTAL ALL STUDENTS	
		Men (1)	Women (2)	Men (3)	Women (4)	Men (5)	Women (6)	Men (7)	Women (8)	Men (9)	Women (10)	Men (11)	Women (12)	Men (13)	Women (14)	Men (15)	Women (16)
<b>40</b>	<b>Students leaving for jobs in their field prior to completion of their program</b>																

**Part C – CLARIFYING QUESTION (Status as of June 30, 1996)**
**How many students in the initial cohort are no longer at your institution (not completed and not transferred) for one of the following reasons?**
**NOTE: Be sure these students are included in line 10.**

Line No.	Cohort year: 1994	Nonresident alien		Black, non-Hispanic		American Indian or Alaskan Native		Asian or Pacific Islander		Hispanic		White, non-Hispanic		Race/ethnicity unknown		TOTAL ALL STUDENTS	
		Men (1)	Women (2)	Men (3)	Women (4)	Men (5)	Women (6)	Men (7)	Women (8)	Men (9)	Women (10)	Men (11)	Women (12)	Men (13)	Women (14)	Men (15)	Women (16)
<b>41</b>	Students who are deceased or are totally and permanently disabled																
<b>42</b>	Students who have left school to serve in the armed forces																
<b>43</b>	Students who have left school to serve with a foreign aid service of the Federal Government, such as the Peace Corps																
<b>44</b>	Students who have left school to serve on official church missions																
<b>45</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>																

**Edit Check:** Be sure line 45 = lines 41 + 42 + 43 + 44.

**WORKSHEET FOR CALCULATING  
GRADUATION AND TRANSFER-OUT RATES  
FOR LESS THAN 2-YEAR INSTITUTIONS**

**The worksheet is provided for the institution's convenience and may be used to calculate graduation and transfer-out rates for additional disclosure or reporting purposes. Duplicate the worksheet if needed to calculate additional rates by race/ethnicity or other student characteristics.**



If returning worksheet with your survey form, please include your 6-digit UNITID number located in the label on the front of the form →

**WORKSHEET FOR CALCULATING GRADUATION AND TRANSFER-OUT RATES OF  
FULL-TIME, FIRST-TIME, DEGREE/CERTIFICATE-SEEKING STUDENTS  
FOR LESS THAN 2-YEAR INSTITUTIONS**

**This worksheet is provided for the institution's convenience and may be used to calculate graduation and transfer-out rates for additional disclosure or reporting purposes. Duplicate the worksheet if needed to calculate rates by race/ethnicity or other student characteristics.**

<b>1. Cohort determination.</b> Enter your initial cohort from Section III, line 10 and the number of allowable exclusions from Section III, Part C to determine your cohort for calculating graduation rates.				<b>2. Calculation of total completers.</b> Enter the numbers of completers from Section III onto the worksheet as indicated. Enter "0" if appropriate.				<b>3. Calculations of total transfer-out students.</b> Enter the numbers of transfer-out students from Section III onto the worksheet as indicated. Enter "0" if appropriate.			
Item Reference	Men (Col 15)	Women (Col 16)	TOTAL	Item Reference	Men (Col 15)	Women (Col 16)	TOTAL	Item Reference	Men (Col 15)	Women (Col 16)	TOTAL
a. Initial cohort Sec III, line 10				a. Completers of < 2-yr programs Sec III, Part A, line 11A				a. Transfer-out students Sec III, Part B, line 30			
b. Initial Cohort: Sum Item 1a (Cols 15 + 16) and enter total here →				b. Sum Item 2a (Cols 15 + 16) and enter total here →				b. Total transfer-out students: Sum Item 3a (Cols 15 + 16) and enter total here →			
c. Allowable exclusions Sec III, Part C, line 45											
d. Total Exclusions: Sum Item 1c (Cols 15 + 16) and enter total here →											
e. Final Cohort: Subtract the exclusions (Item 1d) from the initial cohort total (Item 1b) and enter the result here →											
<b>4. Graduation Rate Calculation: Item 2b divided by Item 1e – enter result here →</b>											
<b>5. Transfer-Out Rate Calculation: Item 3b divided by Item 1e – enter result here →</b>											

# **INSTRUCTIONS AND GLOSSARY**

**INTEGRATED POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION DATA SYSTEM  
GRADUATION RATE SURVEY (GRS)  
GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS – GRS-3**

Please respond to each item on this report in the space provided. The Glossary provides definitions of terms used in this report.

### **INSTITUTIONAL IDENTIFICATION**

In the space provided on the front page of this report, make any necessary corrections to the preprinted address information. Also, enter the name, title, telephone number, e-Mail address, and FAX number of the person responsible for completing the report.

### **PERIOD OF REPORT**

This report requests data on a cohort of full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking students enrolled in your institution either (1) as of October 15, 1994 or (2) during the period between July 1, 1994 and June 30, 1995. Institutions are to report the status of these students as of June 30, 1996.

### **COHORT IDENTIFICATION**

Indicate which method your institution is using to identify the cohort reported on this survey. You may indicate **either a fall cohort or a full-year cohort (12-month period)**.

When establishing a cohort, include **only** those full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking students who entered the institution during one of the time periods described below:

- (1) Institutions that offer a predominant number of programs based on standard academic terms (semesters, trimesters, or quarters) will report using a **fall cohort** of students. Institutions may use a census date of October 15, or the end of the institution's drop-add period, or another official fall reporting date to determine the cohort. This should be the same reporting date established for your 1994 IPEDS Fall Enrollment (EF-2) or Consolidated (CN)-Part A report.
- (2) Institutions that do not offer a predominant number of programs based on standard academic terms (as defined above) must count as entering students all those students who entered the institution between July 1, 1994 and June 30, 1995, and who attended at least 1 day of class.

### **WHO TO INCLUDE IN THE COHORT**

**Students included in cohort** – Include all full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking students entering the institution either during the **fall term** or during the **12-month period** as described above.

Students must be enrolled in courses creditable toward a degree, diploma, certificate, or other formal award. Include students enrolled in courses that are part of a vocational or occupational program, **INCLUDING** those enrolled in off-campus centers.

Be sure to include full-time students taking remedial courses if the student is considered degree-seeking for the purpose of student financial aid determination.

Include high school students taking regular college courses for credit if they are enrolled full time and are degree seeking (i.e., working toward the completion of a program).

A student who is designated as a member of the 1994 cohort remains in the 1994 cohort, even if the student:

- Becomes a part-time student.
- Transfers to another institution.
- Drops out of the institution.
- Stops out of the institution.
- Has not fulfilled the institution's requirements to receive a degree or certificate.

### **WHO TO EXCLUDE FROM THE COHORT**

**DO NOT** include students in this cohort who are:

- Enrolled exclusively in courses not creditable toward a formal award or the completion of a vocational program (i.e., nondegree seeking).
- Taking CEU's unless they are also enrolled full time in courses creditable toward a degree or other formal award.
- Exclusively auditing classes.
- Studying abroad (e.g., at a foreign university) if their enrollment at this institution is only an administrative record and the fee is only nominal.
- In any branch campus located in a foreign country.
- Part time

### **CATEGORIZATION OF STUDENTS**

The attached Glossary provides detailed definitions of specific terms and should be used to define students in the initial cohort. The Glossary should also be used to identify completers, students still enrolled, students not graduated and not enrolled, and transfer-out students.

### **LENGTH OF PROGRAM**

The Glossary also provides detailed definitions of programs of less than 2 years.

### **REPORTING STUDENTS BY RACIAL/ETHNIC CATEGORY AND SEX**

**Method of collection** – The manner of collecting racial/ethnic information is left to the discretion of the institution provided that the system which is established results in reasonably accurate data, which may be replicated by others when the same documented system is utilized. One acceptable method is a properly controlled system of post-enrollment self-identification by students. If a self-identification method is utilized, a verification procedure to ascertain the completeness and accuracy of student submissions should be employed.

**REMOVE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE MAILING AND RETAIN FOR YOUR FILES**

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS – GRS-3 – Continued

**Assignment to categories** – For the purpose of this report, a student may be included in the group to which he or she appears to belong, identifies with, or is regarded in the community as belonging. However, no person may be counted in more than one racial/ethnic group. Racial/ethnic designations are requested only for United States citizens, resident aliens, and other eligible noncitizens. (*See definitions below.*)

**Racial/ethnic descriptions** – Racial/ethnic designations as used in this survey do not denote scientific definitions of anthropological origins. The categories are:

- **Black, non-Hispanic** – A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa (except those of Hispanic origin).
- **American Indian or Alaskan Native** – A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.
- **Asian or Pacific Islander** – A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, or Pacific Islands. This includes people from China, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands, American Samoa, India, and Vietnam.
- **Hispanic** – A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central, or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
- **White, non-Hispanic** – A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa or the Middle East (except those of Hispanic origin).

### Other descriptive categories

- **Nonresident alien** – A person who is not a citizen or national of the United States and who is in this country on a visa or temporary basis and does not have the right to remain indefinitely.

**NOTE:** Nonresident aliens are to be reported separately, in the columns provided, rather than in any of the five racial/ethnic categories described above.

**Resident aliens** and other eligible (for financial aid purposes) noncitizens who are not citizens or nationals of the United States and who have been lawfully admitted as legal immigrants for the purpose of obtaining permanent resident alien status (and who hold either an alien registration card (Form I-551 or I-151), a Temporary Resident Card (Form I-688), or an Arrival-Departure Record (Form I-94) with a notation that conveys legal immigrant status such as Section 207 Refugee, Section 208 Asylee, Conditional Entrant Parolee or Cuban-Haitian) are to be reported in the appropriate racial/ethnic categories along with United States citizens.

- **Race/ethnicity unknown** – This category is used ONLY if the student did not select a racial/ethnic designation, AND the postsecondary institution finds it impossible to place the student in one of the aforementioned racial/ethnic categories during established enrollment procedures or in any post-enrollment identification or verification process.

In columns 15 and 16, report the grand total of all students in the cohort regardless of race/ethnicity or citizenship.

## CONFIDENTIALITY OF DATA

The confidentiality of individuals will be preserved in accordance with Title V, Section 501(a) of the Education Amendments of 1974 (P.L. 93-380) which amends Part A of the General Education Provisions Act by adding at the end thereof a new Section 406 specifically referring to NCES. Section (d)(2) of the Act is cited below:

"The Center shall develop and enforce standards designed to protect the confidentiality of persons in the collection, reporting, and publication of data under this section. This subparagraph shall not be construed to protect the confidentiality of information about institutions, organizations, and agencies receiving grants from or having contracts with the Federal Government."

The freedom of Information Act requires that data retained by the Federal Government must be made available to the public so long as the rights to privacy of individuals are not violated. When requested, data collected in this survey will be made available to the public in the form of diskettes or via Internet. Data cells containing fewer than three individuals will be removed. The database will contain all of the data items on the report (except those which might identify individuals), as well as the names of institutions submitting the reports.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE GRADUATION RATE SURVEY GRS-3 REPORT FORM

**SECTIONS I and II are not applicable to this report.**

### **SECTION III – FULL-TIME, FIRST-TIME DEGREE/CERTIFICATE-SEEKING STUDENTS**

#### **Part A – Status of Students in this Cohort**

Report the status of the 1994 cohort of degree/certificate-seeking students as of June 30, 1996 in terms of the total students in the cohort; the number of completers, by time to complete the program; the number of students still enrolled; and the number of students not graduated and no longer enrolled, including students who transferred out of the institution. Report all degree/certificate-seeking students by race/ethnicity and sex.

**Report only for full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking students. DO NOT** include students who transfer into your institution. *(See definition of degree-seeking students in the Glossary and be sure to include students in occupational and vocational programs.)*

**Line 10: Initial Cohort** – Enter the total number of students in your initial cohort according to their race/ethnicity and sex. If you are reporting on a **fall cohort**, this should be approximately the same information you reported on **line 01** (full-time students) of your 1994 IPEDS Fall Enrollment (EF-2) or Consolidated (CN)-Part A report. If there is a major difference in columns 15 and 16, please explain.

#### **Status of Cohort as of June 30, 1996:**

**Line 11: Completers of programs of less than 2-years duration** – Report all students in the cohort who completed programs of less than 2-years duration at any time during the 3-year period.

#### **Line 11A: Completers within 150% of Normal Time**

In order to calculate a graduation rate to comply with Student Right-to-Know regulations, institutions can only count as completers, those students who received their degree/certificate within 150% of normal program time. *See Glossary for definition of normal time to completion.*

Enter the number of students reported on **line 11**, who completed programs of less than 2-years duration **within** 150% of normal time. For example, a student who completed a 6-month (or equivalent) program in 9 months or less would be reported on **line 11A**; those taking longer would only show on **line 11**. Note that the count on **line 11A** is a subset of those completers reported on **line 11**.

#### **Line 22: Students Still Enrolled**

All students still enrolled in the institution as of June 30, 1996 (or at the end of the preceding regular academic term) who did not complete a program are to be reported on **line 22**.

#### **Line 23: Other Students Not Graduated and Not Enrolled**

Report on **line 23** all students not accounted for elsewhere in **SECTION III, Part A**. This will include such students as drop outs, stop outs, and those who transferred out of the reporting institution.

### **SECTION III – Part B – Students Leaving the Institution Prior to Completion of Their Program**

#### **Lines 30–33: Transfers Out of Your Institution**

**Check Box:** If your institution receives any data about students who transfer to other institutions through a verification process as described below, check **YES** and complete **lines 30–33**. If you check **NO**, skip to **Item 2**.

**Line 30:** For those institutions that check **YES**, report students who transferred (without a degree/award) out of your institution prior to completing their program.

You must be able to provide verification of transfer by any one of the following means:

- a. A certification letter or document from the receiving institution stating that the student is enrolled at that institution.
- b. An electronic certification, such as SPEEDE/ ExPRESS, stating that the student is enrolled at that institution.
- c. Confirmation of enrollment data from a legally-authorized statewide or regional tracking system (or shared information from those systems) confirming that the student has enrolled at another institution.
- d. Institutional data exchange information confirming that the student has enrolled at another institution.
- e. An equivalent level of documentation. For example, transfer information supplied by the student (through surveys or other means) and maintained by the institution would be acceptable for counting individual students as having transferred out.

**DO NOT** consider requests for a transcript as a valid verification of a student's transfer to another institution.

**Lines 31–33:** Report transfer students according to the level of institution that received the student and by race/ethnicity and sex.

#### **Line 40: ITEM 2 – Students Leaving for Jobs in Their Field Prior to Completion of Their Program**

If your institution maintains any data about students who left your institution (prior to completion of their program) to work in a field related to their program of study, check **YES**. Report the number of these students on **line 40** if the 150% of normal time to program completion has not elapsed.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING  
THE GRADUATION RATE SURVEY GRS-3 REPORT FORM – Continued**

**SECTION III – Part C – Clarifying Question**

**Lines 41–45: ITEM 1 – Adjustments to Cohort**

Referencing the cohort reported on **line 10**, indicate the number of students who are no longer considered enrolled in your institution (and have neither graduated/completed nor transferred) because of one of the following **documented** reasons:

- a.** The student is deceased or is totally or permanently disabled and thus unable to return to school.
- b.** The student has left school to serve in the armed forces. (**DO NOT** include students already in the military who transfer to another duty station.)
- c.** The student has left school to serve with a foreign aid service of the Federal Government, such as the Peace Corps.
- d.** The student has left school to serve on an official church mission.

**EDIT CHECKS**

**Adding across rows:**

**Parts A, B, and C**

- Column 15 should equal the sum of columns 01+03+05+07+09+11+13.
- Column 16 should equal the sum of columns 02+04+06+08+10+12+14.

**Adding down columns:**

**Part A**

- Line 10 should equal the sum of lines 11+22+23.

**Part B**

- Line 30 should equal the sum of lines 31+32+33.

**Part C – Item 1**

- Line 45 should equal the sum of lines 41+42+43+44.



## GRADUATION RATE SURVEY (GRS) GLOSSARY – GRS-3

**ACADEMIC PROGRAM** – Instructional program leading toward an associate's, bachelor's, master's, doctor's, or first-professional degree or resulting in credits that can be applied to one of these degrees.

**ACADEMIC YEAR** – The period of time generally extending from September to June; usually equated to 2 semesters or trimesters, 3 quarters, or the period covered by a 4-1-4 plan.

**AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKAN NATIVE** – A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.

**ASIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER** – A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, or Pacific Islands. This includes people from China, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands, American Samoa, India, and Vietnam.

**BLACK, NON-HISPANIC** – A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa (except those of Hispanic origin).

**CERTIFICATE** – A formal award certifying the satisfactory completion of a postsecondary education program.

**CEU** – Continuing education unit. One continuing education unit is normally defined as 10 contact hours of participation in an organized continuing education experience under responsible sponsorship, capable direction, and qualified instruction.

**COHORT** – A specific group (of students) established for tracking purposes. [For this survey, the initial cohort is defined as all students who enter an institution as first-time, full-time degree/certificate-seeking students during either (1) the fall term of a given year, or (2) between July 1 and June 30 of the same academic year. (See instructions for further clarification.)]

**COMPLETER** – A student who receives a degree, diploma, certificate, or other formal award. In order to be considered a completer, the degree/award must actually be conferred.

**CONTINUOUSLY ENROLLED STUDENT** – One who enrolls in successive regular academic terms with no break in attendance. (Regular academic terms do not include summer terms unless the summer term is specified in the catalog description as part of the regular program: e.g. during cooperative study programs.)

**CREDIT** – Recognition of attendance or performance in an instructional activity (course or program) that can be applied by a recipient toward the requirements for a degree, diploma, certificate, or other formal award.

**CREDIT COURSE** – A course that, if successfully completed, can be applied toward the number of courses required for achieving a degree, diploma, certificate, or other formal award.

**DEGREE** – An award conferred by a college, university, or other postsecondary education institution as official recognition for the successful completion of a program of studies.

**DEGREE-SEEKING STUDENTS** – Students enrolled in courses for credit who are recognized by the institution as seeking a degree or formal award. At the undergraduate level, this is intended to include students enrolled in vocational or occupational programs.

**DIPLOMA** – A formal document certifying the successful completion of a prescribed program of studies.

**DROP OUT** – *See STOP OUT*

**FALL TERM** – The part of the academic year that begins between late August and November 1.

**FIRST-TIME STUDENT** – A student attending any institution for the first time at the level (undergraduate, graduate, or first professional) enrolled. Includes students enrolled in the fall term who attended a postsecondary institution for the first time at the same level in the prior summer term. Also includes students who entered with advanced standing (college credit earned before graduation from high school).

**FULL-TIME STUDENT** – At the undergraduate level, a student enrolled for 12 or more semester credits, or 12 or more quarter credits, or 24 or more contact hours a week each term.

**HISPANIC** – A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

**INITIAL COHORT** – *See Cohort.*

**NONCREDIT COURSE** – A course or activity having no credit applicable toward a degree, diploma, certificate, or other formal award.

**NONRESIDENT ALIEN** – A person who is not a citizen or national of the United States and who is in this country on a visa or temporary basis and does not have the right to remain indefinitely.

## **GRADUATION RATE SURVEY (GRS) GLOSSARY – GRS-3 – Continued**

**NORMAL TIME TO COMPLETION** – The amount of time necessary for a student to complete all requirements for a degree or certificate according to the institution's catalog. This is typically 4 years (8 semesters or trimesters, or 12 quarters, excluding summer terms) for a bachelor's degree in a standard term-based institution; 2 years (4 semesters or trimesters, or 6 quarters, excluding summer terms) for an associate's degree in a standard term-based institution; and the various scheduled times for certificate programs.

**OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM** – A program of study consisting of one or more courses, designed to provide the student with sufficient knowledge and skills to perform in a specific occupation.

**OFF-CAMPUS CENTERS (EXTENSION CENTERS)** – Sites outside the confines of the parent institution where courses are offered that are part of an organized program at the parent institution. The sites are not considered to be temporary but may be rented or made available to the institution at no cost by another institution or an organization, agency, or firm.

**OFFICIAL FALL REPORTING DATE** – The date (in the fall) on which an institution must report fall enrollment data to either the state, its board of trustees or governing board, or some other external governing body.

**OTHER STUDENTS NOT GRADUATED AND NOT ENROLLED** – A student from a given cohort that leaves the institution either formally or without notice and does not complete a program, or is not still enrolled in the program as of the status date.

**POSTSECONDARY AWARD, CERTIFICATE, OR DIPLOMA (LESS THAN 1 ACADEMIC YEAR)** – Requires completion of an organized program of study at the postsecondary level (below the baccalaureate degree) in less than 1 academic year (2 semesters or 3 quarters) or in less than 900 contact hours by a student enrolled full-time.

**POSTSECONDARY AWARD, CERTIFICATE, OR DIPLOMA (AT LEAST 1 BUT LESS THAN 2 ACADEMIC YEARS)** Requires completion of an organized program of study at the postsecondary level (below the baccalaureate degree) in at least 1 but less than 2 full-time equivalent academic years, or designated for completion in at least 30 but less than 60 credit hours, or at least 900 but less than 1,800 contact hours.

**POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION** – The provision of a formal instructional program whose curriculum is designed primarily for students who are beyond the compulsory age for high school. This includes programs whose purpose is academic, vocational, and continuing professional education, and excludes avocational (leisure) and adult basic education programs.

**PROGRAM** – A combination of courses and related activities organized for the attainment of broad educational objectives as described by the institution.

### **PROGRAMS OF LESS THAN 2-YEARS**

**DURATION** – Programs requiring less than 2 years of full-time equivalent college level work (4 semesters or 6 quarters) or less than 1,800 contact hours to obtain a degree, diploma, certificate, or other formal award.

**QUARTER CALENDAR SYSTEM** – A calendar system in which the academic year consists of 3 sessions called quarters of about 12 weeks each. The range may be from 10 to 15 weeks. There may be an additional quarter in the summer.

**RACE/ETHNICITY** – Categories used to describe groups to which individuals belong, identify with, or belong in the eyes of the community. The categories do not denote scientific definitions of anthropological origins. A person may be counted in only one group. The groups used to categorize U.S. citizens, resident aliens, and other eligible noncitizens are as follows:

- Black, non-Hispanic
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Hispanic
- White, non-Hispanic

**RACE/ETHNICITY UNKNOWN** – Category used to classify students or employees whose race/ethnicity is not known **and** institutions are unable to place them in one of the specified racial/ethnic categories.

**REMEDIAL COURSES** – Instructional courses designed for students deficient in the general competencies necessary for a regular postsecondary curriculum and educational setting.

**RESIDENT ALIEN (and other eligible non-citizens)** – A person who is not a citizen or national of the United States and who has been admitted as a legal immigrant for the purpose of obtaining permanent resident alien status (and who holds either an alien registration card (Form I-551 or I-151), a Temporary Resident Card (Form I-688), or an Arrival-Departure Record (Form I-94) with a notation that conveys legal immigrant status such as Section 207 Refugee, Section 208 Asylee, Conditional Entrant Parolee or Cuban-Haitian).

**SEMESTER CALENDAR SYSTEM** – A calendar system that consists of 2 semesters during the academic year with about 16 weeks for each semester of instruction. There may be an additional summer term.

**STATUS DATE** – June 30 of the reporting year; at which time institutions determine the status of their cohort.

**STOP OUT** – A student who leaves the institution with or without notice for a period of at least one regular term. The student may or may not re-enroll at a later time.



## **GRADUATION RATE SURVEY (GRS)**

### **GLOSSARY – GRS-3– Continued**

**STUDENT RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT** – Also known as the "Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act" (P.L. 101-542), which was passed by Congress November 9, 1990. Title I, Section 103, requires institutions eligible for Title IV funding to disclose completion or graduation rates of certificate- or degree-seeking, full-time students entering an institution to all students and prospective students. Further, Section 104 requires each institution which participates in any Title IV program and is attended by students receiving athletically-related student aid to annually submit a report to the Secretary. This report is to contain, among other things, graduation/completion rates of students receiving athletically-related student aid by race/ethnicity and sex and by sport, and the average completion or graduation rates for the four most recent years. These data are also required to be disclosed to potential student athletes (and others) when the institution offers athletically-related student aid.

**STUDENTS STILL ENROLLED** – A student from a given cohort who is still enrolled at the institution as of the status date.

**SUMMER SESSION** – A summer session is shorter than a regular semester and not considered part of the academic year. It is not the third term of an institution operating on a trimester system or the fourth term of an institution operating on a quarter calendar system. The institution may have 2 or more sessions occurring in the summer months. Some schools, such as vocational and beauty schools, have year-round classes with no separate summer session.

**TRANSCRIPT** – An official record of student performance showing all schoolwork completed at a given school and the final mark or other evaluation received in each portion of the instruction. Transcripts often include an explanation of the marking scale used by the school.

**TRANSFER-OUT STUDENT** – A student that leaves the reporting institution and enrolls at another institution. (For this survey, certification of transfer must be documented and transfer must occur within 150% of normal time to completion of the student's program.)

**TRANSFER VERIFICATION** – Evidence of transfer as documented by:

- a. A certification letter or document from the registrar of the receiving institution that the student is enrolled in the receiving institution.
- b. An electronic certification, such as SPEEDE/ExPRESS or a secure e-mail message from the registrar of the receiving institution stating that the student is enrolled at that institution.
- c. Confirmation of enrollment data from a legally-authorized, statewide or regional tracking system (or shared information from those systems) confirming that the student has enrolled in another institution.
- d. Institutional data exchange information confirming that a student has enrolled in another institution.
- e. An equivalent level of documentation.

**TRIMESTER CALENDAR SYSTEM** – An academic year consisting of 3 terms of about 15 weeks each.

**12-MONTH PERIOD** – The 12-month period used by the institution for reporting a full year of activity. This time period should be consistent among all IPEDS surveys and from year-to-year. (The 12-month reporting period used for the purposes of the Graduation Rate Survey is July 1 to June 30.)

**UNDERGRADUATE** – A student enrolled in a 4-year or 5-year bachelor's degree program, an associate's degree program, or a vocational or technical program below the baccalaureate.

**UNDUPLICATED COUNT** – The sum of students enrolled for credit with each student counted only once during the reporting period, regardless of when the student enrolled.

**WHITE, NON-HISPANIC** – A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East (except those of Hispanic origin).